



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

NOV 01 2002

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

B-19J

Mr. Ron Adams
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Avenue
IGCN Room N855
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2218

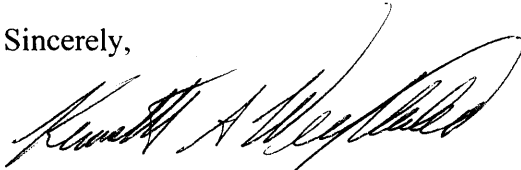
Dear Mr. Adams:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed SR 25 from Interstate 65 Interchange to US 24. The project alignment is located in Tippecanoe, Carroll, and Cass Counties, Indiana. This transportation corridor is approximately 33 miles long and begins east of the Interstate 65/SR 24 interchange in Lafayette, Indiana. The corridor terminates at the junction of US 24 and US 35 in Logansport, Indiana. The overall purpose of the project is to complete the 99-mile length of the Hoosier Heartland Highway between Lafayette and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Several of the project objectives that were identified and will be address are reduction of congestion, improvement to safety, and enhancement of regional and local transportation networks. The DEIS provides the analysis and discussion of 5 alternatives. These alternatives consist of the No Action and four build alternatives. The build alternatives would consist of various alignments of a four-lane, divided, access controlled roadway with a 300-foot wide right of way. The document does identify and discuss other no build alternatives. These alternatives (bus and rail transit) were dismissed after the determination that these options did not meet the purpose and need objectives.

Based on the information provided in this document our Agency has a lack of objection "LO" to each of the build alternatives and to the proposed project overall. This "LO" rating indicates that we believe that the proposed project will result in minimum adverse impacts to the environment with appropriate mitigation and that we did not identify any outstanding environmental issues that need additional analysis. This rating will be published in the Federal Register.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DEIS for the proposed SR 25 improvement project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Al Fenedick at (312) 886-6872 or by E-mail fenedick.al@epa.gov <<mailto:fenedick.al@epa.gov>>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" and last name "Westlake" clearly distinguishable.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis



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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

0010100

B-19J

Roger E. Roche, P.E.
District Engineer
District 2, Illinois DOT
819 Depot Avenue
Dixon, Illinois 61021

RE: Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway, CEQ number 020467

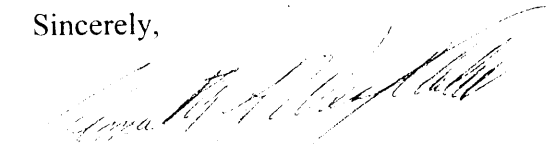
Dear Mr. Roche:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Milan Beltway Extension (FAU 5822) Airport Road to Blackhawk Road/John Deere Expressway Rock Island County, Illinois. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to connect the developing area south of Rock River and the urbanized area north of the river. There is also a need to address present and projected traffic volumes by providing for a new crossing over the Rock River. The proposed action consists of construction of approximately 2 miles of four-lane access-controlled divided highway crossing the Rock River by connecting the Milan Beltway to the John Deere Expressway. Only two alternatives were considered for the proposal, the preferred and no action. The preferred alternative will result in the displacement of five residences and eleven businesses, permanent loss of 22.3 acres of wetlands, removal of 16.2 acres of forested areas, and filling of 26.7 acres of Rock River floodplain.

Based on the information provided in this document our Agency has a lack of objection "LO" to the build alternatives and to the proposed project overall. This "LO" rating indicates that we believe that the proposed project will result in minimum adverse impacts to the environment with appropriate mitigation and that we did not identify any outstanding environmental issues that need additional analysis. This rating will be published in the Federal Register.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DEIS for the proposed Milan Beltway Extension project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Al Fenedick at (312) 886-6872 or by E-mail fenedick.al@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", written over a horizontal line.

✓ Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis